



HR0133

LRB098 11267 MST 42350 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Tourism is a crucial component of the Illinois
3 economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Chicago tourism is the largest source of tourism
5 in Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, It is an established State policy to support
7 tourism for economic development, particularly to Chicago
8 where the greatest potential economic impact for the State can
9 be enjoyed; and

10 WHEREAS, Choose Chicago has recently announced an
11 audacious goal of 75 million annual visitors to Chicago in
12 order to dramatically increase the economic impact of tourism;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the entire State of
15 Illinois to help reach that goal of 75 million annual visitors
16 to Chicago; and

17 WHEREAS, Increasing visitors to Chicago has a secondary
18 benefit of exposing those visitors to potential trips
19 throughout Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, Choose Chicago is currently conducting a public
2 discussion on innovative methods to hit the goal of 75 million
3 annual visitors to Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, Most tourists to Illinois come from the midwest as
5 the top 5 states providing visitors to Illinois in 2011 were
6 Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Missouri,
7 according to the Department of Commerce and Economic
8 Opportunity's 2011 Economic Impact of Tourism report; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois hosted 93.3 million visitors in 2011, a
10 10% increase over 2010, fueled by an 11.8% increase in leisure
11 travel according to the same report; and

12 WHEREAS, The most likely market for additional tourists
13 coming to Chicago is the 500 mile radius around Chicago in the
14 midwest; and

15 WHEREAS, Many smaller communities in the 500 mile radius
16 around Chicago in the midwest do not have access to affordable,
17 frequent, or convenient flights to Chicago, either because
18 there isn't a nearby airport or because the flights from their
19 airport are not affordable, frequent, or convenient; and

20 WHEREAS, Driving more than 100 miles can be very
21 inconvenient, particularly due to the relatively high cost of

1 parking in Chicago (especially compared to the low or no-cost
2 for parking in much of the midwest); and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has been a leader in
4 investing in Amtrak to provide more intercity passenger train
5 service, doubling the frequency of round-trips in 2006 and
6 investing State funds in improving the infrastructure of the
7 Saint Louis-Springfield-Normal-Joliet-Chicago line; and

8 WHEREAS, Ridership on Amtrak service has broken records
9 every year for the last 5 years; and

10 WHEREAS, A majority of Amtrak riders on weekends, and a
11 significant amount on weekdays, are not business travelers but
12 are rather leisure travelers or traveling to visit family or
13 friends according to a State-authored 2011 survey of passengers
14 aboard the Milwaukee-Chicago Amtrak Hiawatha service;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we fully support the goal of 75 million annual visitors to
19 Chicago; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we call attention to the crucial role that
21 transportation plays in bringing these new tourists to Chicago

1 from, primarily, the rest of the midwest; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the easiest way to get tourists from the
3 midwest to visit Chicago is to make it easier for tourists from
4 the midwest to get to Chicago; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we call upon all other stakeholders in the
6 tourism economy to recognize that offering more affordable,
7 frequent, and convenient train travel throughout the midwest to
8 Chicago is a crucial strategy to reach our goal of 75 million
9 annual visitors to Chicago.